

REMARKS

Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 5-13 and 15-17 are added. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at page 12, line 23 to page 13, line 3; and at page 15, line 19 to page 16, line 4.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-7 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,107,378 in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,512,174 and 5,872,169. Claim 1 has been amended. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as it may be applied to the amended claims.

The art relied on by the examiner does not teach or suggest a biodegradable resin containing both a flame retardant and a hydrolysis inhibitor, as required by the claims. The compositions of the present invention have the novel properties of biodegradability and flame retardancy while maintaining mechanical strength. See, for example, specification at page 15, lines 19-22.

While the '378 patent discloses a biodegradable resin with a hydrolysis inhibitor, the examiner has not pointed out where a suggestion is made to modify the compositions of the '378 patent with a flame retardant. Neither has the examiner pointed out where motivation can be found in the '174 or '169 patents.

Further, none of the art relied upon by the examiner suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art the biodegradable organic polymer compositions having both a flame retardant and hydrolysis inhibitor are able to maintain mechanical strength. Thus, the present invention is non-obvious over the art relied on by the examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,107,378 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,174 and U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. No. 2001/0018487. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as it may be applied to the amended claims.

The art relied on by the examiner does not teach or suggest a biodegradable resin containing both a flame retardant and a hydrolysis inhibitor, as required by the claims. The compositions of the present invention have the novel properties of biodegradability and flame retardancy while maintaining mechanical strength. See, for example, specification at page 15, lines 19-22.

While the '378 patent discloses a biodegradable resin with a hydrolysis inhibitor, the examiner has not pointed out where a suggestion is made to modify the compositions of the '378 patent with a flame retardant. Neither has the examiner pointed out where motivation can be found in the '174 patent or '487 publication.

Further, none of the art relied upon by the examiner suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art the biodegradable organic polymer compositions having both a flame retardant and hydrolysis inhibitor are able to maintain mechanical strength. Thus, the present invention is non-obvious over the art relied on by the examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at

(908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: March 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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